

Wales Coal Field

Location

The Wales coal field is a minor field located in Sanpete County, Utah. The field is just west of the Colorado Plateau proper and is on the east side of the Gunnison Plateau (San Pitch Mountains) within the Basin and Range Province.

Stratigraphy

A reconnaissance study of the coal was completed by Richardson (1906), and the earliest detailed study of the coal was by Clark (1914). Coal in the Wales coal field is present within the Cretaceous-Tertiary North Horn Formation. The coal is in the Cretaceous part of the unit (Lawton and others, 1993). The stratigraphy and thickness is from Lawton and others (1993).

Table. Stratigraphy—Wales coal field.

Stratigraphic unit		Depositional environment	Thickness (ft)
North Horn Formation			
coal-bearing unit	alluvial/lacustrine		131-374

Coal Deposits

Numerous thin beds as much as 6.6 ft thick (with partings) are present in the coal unit (Doelling, 1972; Lawton and others, 1993).

Coal Quality

Coal chemistry data in the following table are from a compilation by Doelling (1972).

Table. Coal in North Horn Formation.

[Values reported on an as-received basis]

	Ash content (percent)	Sulfur content (percent)	Heating value (Btu/lb)
Average	14.8	4.3	10,119
Range	4.0-29.2	2.88-6.79	6,554-11,857
Number of analyses	13	8	6

Resources

The field contains about 12 million short tons of coal (Doelling, 1972).

Production History

The Wales coal field dates back to 1855. Several small mines operated until 1955, producing a total of 175,000 short tons of coal (Doelling, 1972).

References

- Clark, F.R., 1914, Coal near Wales, Sanpete County, Utah, *in* Campbell, M.R., ed., Contributions to Economic Geology 1912: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 541, p. 478–489.
- Doelling, H.H., 1972, Sevier-Sanpete region, *in* Doelling, H.H., ed., Central Utah Coal Fields: Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey Monograph No. 3, p. 1–57.
- Lawton, T.F., Talling, P.J., Hobbs, R.S., Trexler, Jr., J.H., and Weiss, M.P., 1993, Structure and Stratigraphy of Upper Cretaceous and Paleogene Strata (North Horn Formation), Eastern San Pitch Mountains, Utah—Sedimentation at the Front of the Sevier Orogenic Belt: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1787-II, 33 p.
- Richardson, G.B., 1906, Coal in Sanpete County, Utah, *in* Emmons, S.F., and Eckel, E.C., eds., Contributions to Economic Geology 1905: U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 285, p. 280–284.